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ABSTRACT

This outreach program for black parents is based on the knowledge of how much they care about their children. It identifies some of the ways that black parents can become involved in their children's schooling. Black organizations and churches have historically championed the cause of education for black children, and this program adds a tool for them to reach out to black parents. The group discussion guide is designed for use with the videotape "Parents Make A+ Difference." Both the guide and the videotape discuss improving cooperation between parents and schools. "Parents Make A+ Difference: Church, Community, Social, and Civic Presentation Guide" contains a presentation script for organizations to use in leading discussions based on the program's video. An attached brochure introduces the program, summarizes and highlights its important points about parent involvement, and indicates how to obtain copies of the presentation guides. (SLD)

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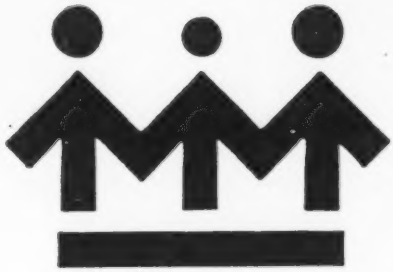
Presentation Materials



PARENTS Make A+ DIFFERENCE

Guidance/Career Development Services
Alexandria City Public Schools
3801 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

PARENT PRESENTATION GUIDE

ED029216

The development of this parent
outreach program was directed by

Kenneth Firling
Coordinator
Special Programs
Alexandria City Public Schools

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alexandria City Public Schools express its deep appreciation to all who contributed their time and expertise to the successful development of this outreach program.

We acknowledge and are especially indebted for funding support for the video portion from Northern Virginia Natural Gas.

For information concerning this black parent outreach kit "Parents Make A+ Difference" contact:

Guidance Resource Center
T. C. Williams High School
Alexandria City Public Schools
3330 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

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PREFACE

This outreach program is based on the knowledge that black parents care a lot about their children's education. "Parents Make A+ Difference" identifies some of the "hows" by which parents can get involved. Black organizations and churches have historically championed the cause of education for black children. "Parents Make A+ Difference" provides black organizations with another tool to reach out to their brothers and sisters.

This group discussion guide is intended for use with the videotape, **PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE**. It is designed to highlight the key points mentioned in the video and to stimulate discussion.

Ultimately, the goal of this presentation is to bring about increased parental involvement in the education process.

The format of this script is as follows:

I. General Comments

II. Benefits of Parent Involvement

III. Ways That You Can Help

IV. Vital Information

V. Group Discussion

Transparency masters are included to highlight and summarize key points. Keep in mind that this guide is a suggested approach.

PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE

Presentation Script
(PARENTS)

	Suggested Comments/Dialogue
I. GENERAL COMMENTS	Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. You've just seen a video presentation that introduced you to an exciting special program called **PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE**. Our goal is to leave this meeting with specific strategies for getting you actively involved in your children's education. When we leave, we should be prepared to take immediate action in order to get you involved. In this presentation, we'll discuss how to develop cooperation between students, parents, teachers and civic and community groups. We'll show you different steps that you can take to get involved in your child's education and how this investment can benefit the entire community. But first, let's take a closer look at the need for parent involvement.

II. BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT As the video presentation stated, there are a number of benefits derived from parent involvement in education

Let's just name a few:

- Better Academic Performance
  - Children do better in school
- Incrased Value on Education
  - Your children see that education is important to you and it becomes more important to them
- Better Parent/Student Communications
  - Children appreciate your interest; (this strengthens communications between you and your children
- Better Parent/School Communications
  - Better communications between the school and parents are developed
- Better Attendance
  - Students are more interested in school/better attendance

It's easy to see how parent involvement can be a positive influence on the educational lives of students

However, it is just as easy to see how lack of involvement can lead to negative consequences.

When parents and students are working toward a common goal, academic succss for students becomes much easier

III. WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

There are a number of ways in which you as parents can get involved in your children's education.

Let's take some time here, to discuss specific strategies and approaches that can help your child's learning:

- Visit the School

(1) VISIT THE SCHOOL

A visit to school helps the parent, the teacher, and the student.

The parents benefit by getting to meet, face-to-face, those people who will have a tremendous influence upon their children's life. The parent can begin to know the principal, guidance counselor, and teacher with whom the student makes daily contact. A visit or face-to-face encounter sets the stage for all future communications between the parent and the school.

The teacher benefits by knowing that there is invaluable resource in the life of the student who can support the teacher's effort.

Attendance problems, abnormal/erratic behavior, and study habits are just a few of the behaviors that can be addressed by a parent in communication with the teacher.

The teacher will acknowledge students' positive behavior. The parent can then encourage that behavior, and the student benefits by knowing that he/she will be held accountable at home for his/her actions at school.

"Back to School Night", Parent/Teacher Conferences, Special Meetings are all important times for parents to visit the schools; however, parents are always welcomed at school. An unscheduled visit to school by a parent can be very beneficial.

- Volunteer

(2) **BE A VOLUNTEER**

Parents Volunteers can help the school in many ways:

- Field Trip Escorts
- Tutors
- Parents can read stories to children
- Assist with bulletin boards
- Chaperon at school related activities
- Selected clerical tasks
- Set up classroom centers
- Examination monitors
- Etc..

The real contribution that a parent can make as a volunteer is by providing his/her presence in the school. Your child benefit and so will other students who are familiar with the parent.

- Class Field Trip

(3) **CLASS FIELD TRIP**

Parents can share their talents and affiliations with the school.

Parents can also serve as guest speakers or make recommendations of individuals they know to be guest speakers.

- Extend the School into the Home

(4) **BRING SCHOOL HOME**

There are a number of ways that parents can bring the school into their home. By so doing, education can be viewed by the student as an ongoing experience, and school not just a place to spend a few hours a day.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Ask student what he/she learned that day in school and about the experiences of the day.

- Review and reinforce daily lessons. This can be done by having the student explain the lesson to the parent.

- Check daily homework assignments. If there is no homework, ask the teacher why.

- Read together everyday. (Newspaper stories, magazines, etc.)

- Create Educational Games. (Making change, figuring bills, addressing correspondence).

- Make assignments to students who have "idle" time or complain of being "bored".

- Practice handwriting (create stories, keep a daily log) and check for neatness.

- PTA

(5) **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

Parents should be involved in the PTA. Information is available in the Main Office of your students school.

Attend meetings and get involved in PTA projects and politics.

Your involvement in the PTA can help you in many positive ways.

- Form Neighborhood Support Groups

(6) **FORMATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT GROUPS**

By forming Support groups, "neighborhood" parents can help each other address common school-related concerns.

- Have Test Scores Explained

(7) **ASK WHAT YOUR STUDENT'S TEST SCORES MEAN**

Standardized Tests determine class selection and class placement in many instances. Find out the practical effect of your student's test scores.

- Check for Proper Course

(8) **ASK WHAT COURSES YOUR STUDENT NEEDS FOR SUCCESS**

If your student has a specific career goal in mind or plans for college, make sure that he/she is taking the proper courses.

(9) **OTHERS**

We have discussed just a few of the ways in

which parents can get involved in their student's education. There are still other ways which have not been mentioned. Let's talk about some of your ideas. Does anyone have a suggestion?

IV **VITAL INFORMATION ***

There is certain information all parents should have readily available in order to support their students.

We have listed the key information below:

It is optional whether or not Information Packets will be made available with Key Forms, etc.

- School Information

School Information

Parents should have readily available the name of the school, the principal, guidance counselor, school address, telephone numbers, hours of operation, etc.

- PTA Information

PTA Information

- School Calendar

School Calendar

- Student Schedule

Student Schedule

- Teacher Contact/Conference

Teacher Contact/Conference Forms

- Neighborhood/Support Group

Neighborhood/Support Group Roster

Who are the members of your support group? Who are their children?

- Roster of Local Organizations

Roster of Local Organizations with Education Assistance Programs

"Johnny needs a tutorial program - What services are available?"

- Student/Teacher/Parent Commitment

Student/Teacher/Parent Commitment Form

Students, Teachers, and Parents should know what is expected of each of them and make a commitment to do their very best in their efforts.

*It is suggested that standardized forms be developed and an Information Packet be distributed to parents.

V. **GROUP DISCUSSION**

You have seen a video and listened patiently to my presentation, now let's discuss your feelings about this program and decide what we can do right now to get involved.

This is an appropriate time to break into small groups and discuss specific strategies that persons present can begin NOW!

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

As was mentioned in the video presentation schools cannot operate effectively without the support of parents. Don't be shy - speak out. Parents must take the first step!

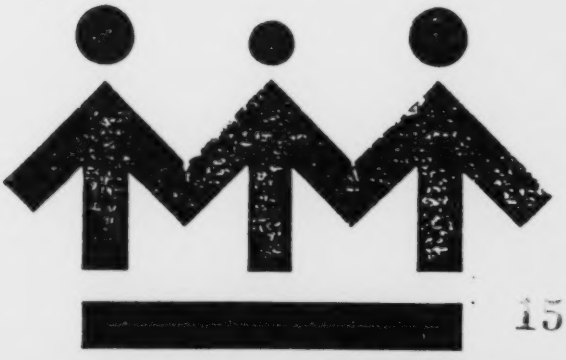
Thank you for your time and remember...

PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE

BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Better Academic Performance
- Increased Value on Education
- Better Parent/Student Communications
- Better Parent/School Communications
- Better Attendance

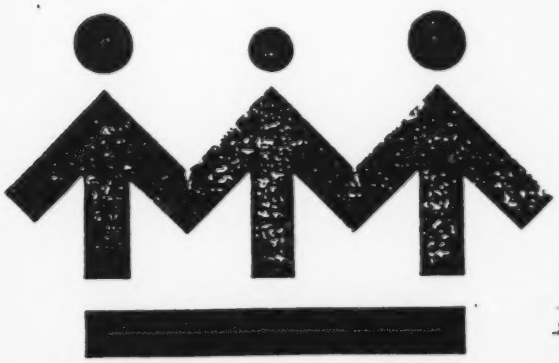
Transparency # 1



WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

- Visit the School
- Volunteer
- Class Field Trip
- Extend the School into the Home
- PTA
- Form Neighborhood Support Groups
- Have Test Scores Explained

Transparency # 2



VITAL INFORMATION *

- School Information
- PTA Information
- School Calendar
- Student Schedule
- Teacher Contact/Conference Forms
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- Roster of Local Organizations
- Student/Teacher/Parent Commitment Agreement

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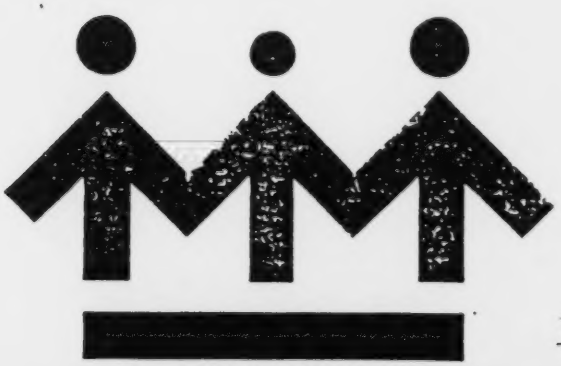
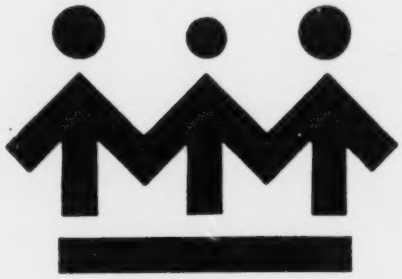
Transparency # 3



Presentation Materials



PARENTS Make A+ DIFFERENCE

Guidance/Career Development Services
Alexandria City Public Schools
3801 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

CHURCH, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, & CIVIC PRESENTATION GUIDE

The development of this parent outreach program was directed by

Kenneth Firling
Coordinator
Special Programs
Alexandria City Public Schools

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PREFACE

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This group discussion guide is intended for use with the videotape, **PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE**. It is designed to highlight the key points mentioned in the video and to stimulate discussion.

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I. General Comments

II. (A) Benefits of Parent Involvement

(B) Benefits of Group Involvement

III. Ways That You Can Help

IV. Vital Information

V. Group Discussion

Transparency masters are included to highlight and summarize key points. Keep in mind that this guide is a suggested approach.

PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE

Presentation Script
(COMMUNITY, CIVIC AND CHURCH GROUPS)

Suggested Comments/Dialogue

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the members of

_____.

You've just seen a video presentation that introduced you to an exciting special program called Parents Make A+ Difference.

Our goal is to leave this meeting with specific strategies for getting parents involved in their children's education.

When we leave, we should be prepared to take immediate action in order to get parents involved.

In this presentation, we'll discuss how to develop cooperation between students, parents, teachers and community groups such as yours.

We'll show you different steps that you can take to get involved in promoting parental involvement in education and how this investment can benefit the entire community.

But first, let's take a closer look at the need for parent involvement.

II. (B) BENEFITS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

If the organization has an existing education assistance program, make the following statement:

First, I want to applaud your efforts in the area of education assistance. We are aware of the many projects your organization sponsors that promotes academic excellence.

Now, I want to introduce a program which can augment your present efforts; or serve as the basis for a new education assistance program.

Parents Make A+ Difference is a special program of the Alexandria City Public Schools whose goal is to increase Black (minority) parent participation in the educational lives of their children.

The objective of A+ Difference is to create an understanding among parents for the benefits derived from participation in their child's education.

Your group benefits by having immediate access to a mechanism which will allow you to get involved.

By participating in this program, your group benefits by expanding its services without increasing cost.

III. WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

There are a number of ways in which you as a group can get involved in increasing parent participation in education.

Lets take some time here, to discuss specific strategies and approaches that can help get parents involved.

The most important strategy is one that your group designs...which takes into consideration the existing efforts, assets, goals and objectives of your group. In addition we recommend that you incorporate into your education assistance program the following two (2) specific strategies:

(A) SPREAD THE WORD. Tell others about the Parents Make A+ Difference Program. Tell others that there is a program (in the Alexandria City Public Schools) that is promoting parent involvement and is making group presentations and materials available to persons interested in academic achievement.

(B) MAKE A PRESENTATION. Assist a group of parents in understanding the relationship between their involvement and their student's success in school. Make a presentation of approximately 60 minutes. Now, the question becomes how you can make such a presentation.

Here's how:

Your audience can be any parent group.

(1) Your own membership
(2) The parents of students your group currently assists.
(3) Develop neighborhood support groups of parents.
(4) Develop an ongoing parent outreach program
(5) Other

You can see that the possibilities are numerous in promoting this effort.

*As a minimum we would like your group to make a one (1) hour presentation to parent groups during your fiscal year.

Materials are Available

In order to make a presentation to a group about the benefits and strategies of parental involvement we have available:

- a video cassette presentation entitled Parents Make A+ Difference. This
- video can be used in any locale and highlights graphically the problems and solutions. Also available is:

- a script for use with the video which is designed to stimulate discussion and action.

Finally, there is a

-Packet of Vital Information

There is certain information that all parents should have readily available in order to support their students.

A packet is available which provides a file folder, and key suggested forms for parent use such as:
- School information
- School calendar
- Student schedule
- Forms, etc.

In summarizing the way in which you can help, remember,
- Design an approach that is right for your group
- Spread the word
- Make a presentation

IV. GROUP DISCUSSION

You have seen a video and listened to my presentation, now lets discuss how you feel about this program and decide what we can do right now to get involved. This is an appropriate time to break into small groups and discuss specific strategies that organization can begin Now!

CONCLUSION

As was mentioned in the video presentation, schools cannot operate effectively without the support of parents and civic, community and church groups are equally as important. Let's all do our share in the quest for academic excellence.

BENEFITS OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Better Academic Performance

- Increased Value on Education

- Better Parent/Student Communications

- Better Parent/School Communications

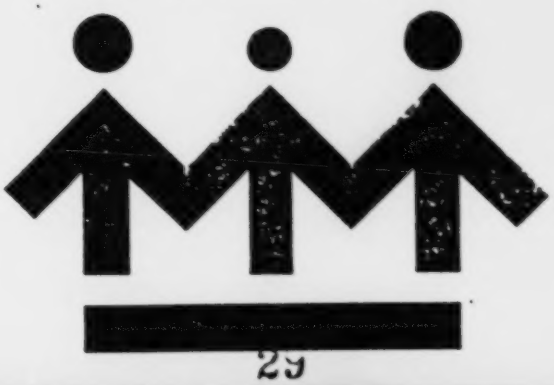
- Better Attendance

Transparency # 1

WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

- Visit the School
- Volunteer
- Class Field Trip
- Extend the School into the Home
- PTA
- Form Neighborhood Support Groups
- Have Test Scores Explained

Transparency # 2



VITAL INFORMATION *

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- Roster of Local Organizations
- Student/Teacher/Parent Commitment Agreement

* It is suggested that standardized forms be developed and an Information Packet be

Transparency # 3

Quantity ____ **PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE** ($75.00 per copy: includes video plus the two Discussion Guides described)

Find my check or purchase order enclosed in the amount of $ ____

Send Order to: Name _____ Title _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Street

_____

City State Zip

Telephone Number: ( ) _____

Area Code

Please make your check or purchase order payable to "**Guidance Resources**" and mail to:

Alexandria City Public Schools
Guidance Resources
3330 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

THEIR FUTURE STARTS TODAY!

Alexandria City Public Schools

Paul W. Masem Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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PARENTS Make A+ DIFFERENCE

HELP WANTED

- Your child needs your help.
- Children with parents involved in their education do much better in school.
- Involvement is not hard, it needn't take much time.
- If you want to improve your child's chances for success in school the time to get involved is **NOW.**

PARENTS MAKE A+ DIFFERENCE is designed to aid black parents help their children take full advantage of educational opportunities. A program kit, including a professional video and presentation materials, has been developed for use by parents and community groups. To receive information about this program please call or write:

Kenneth T. Firling
Alexandria City Public Schools
3330 King Street
Alexandria Virginia 22302
(703) 824-6821

CAN

- Check daily homework assignments. If there is no homework, ask the teacher why.
- Ask what your child's test scores mean.
- Ask what courses are needed for success.
- Go to back to School Night each fall; introduce yourself to your child's teacher. Show the teacher that your child is not alone.
- Read together everyday. Talk about the school day.
- Don't be shy - speak out.

Alexandria City Public Schools acknowledges funding support for the video production from Northern Virginia Natural Gas.

THE DOES TRICK.

- Your child sees that you think education is important and that makes school more important to your child.
- Learn about other helpful programs such as after-school and Recreation Department activities.
- Meet other parents like yourself.
- Bottom Line - You help your kid succeed. **WOW!**

Other video programs available:

- Black College, White College: A Matter of Choice
- Selecting A College
- Black, Male and Successful in America
- Parents and Schools, Success Through Partnership (available in English and Spanish)